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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/476,461	12/30/1999	JOHN LAWRENCE SNAPP	113614	7881

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EXAMINER

TO, DORIS HA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2682

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/476,461

Applicant(s)

Snapp

Examiner

D. To

Art Unit

2682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 04
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 4, the phrase "or the like" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Regarding claim 5-7, these claims are also rejected since they are dependence on claim 4 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lamb [US 6,157,831].

Regarding claim 1, Lamb discloses a method comprising storing, at the mobility gateway (Fig. 1) a plurality of temporary transfer-to telephone numbers (230 of Fig. 2); and

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selecting, for association with the roaming subscriber unit, one of the temporary transfer-to telephone numbers (see Fig. 7), see Figs. 1-10.

Regarding claim 2, Lamb discloses that the temporary transfer-to number is homed on a MSC that is different from a MSC serving the roaming subscriber unit.

Regarding claim 3, Lamb also shows sending the message having the temporary transfer-to telephone number to a MSC serving the roaming subscriber unit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lamb [US 6,157,831]

Regarding claims 4-6, Lamb shows the location of the roaming subscriber unit is stored in HLR. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to receive the location request message from the MSC which homes the temporary transfer-to telephone number in order to identify the location of the subscriber unit.

Regarding claim 7, the redirection request message reads on the system using the temporary transfer-to telephone number to direct the caller to the associated voicemail bins.

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Regarding claim 8, Lamb shows ANSI-41 based network (see Col. 1), a memory for storing a plurality of temporary transfer-to telephone numbers associated with a roaming subscriber unit (see Fig. 7). Lamb also shows the step of selecting one of the plurality of temporary transfer-to telephone numbers (see Fig. 7), but does not specifically show a processor. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lamb with a known processor in order to perform the step of selecting. In addition, Lamb does not specifically show a GSM-based network. Such GSM-based network is well known in the art. Since Lamb shows roaming subscriber units, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify Lamb to incorporate GSM-based network in order to accomodate different types of users.

Regarding claims 9-14, with the modification above, the roaming subscriber unit would roam into the GSM-based network. These claims are further interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in the rejections of claims as described above.

Regarding claims 15-21, these claims are interpreted and rejected for the same reasons as set forth in the rejection of the combined claims as described above.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Gallant et al disclose a method and apparatus for improved call connectivity in an intelligent wireless network. [US 5,815,810]

Sonberg et al disclose a system and method for dynamically specifying the manner in which calls to a roaming cellular telephone subscriber are to be handled. [US 5,440,614]

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

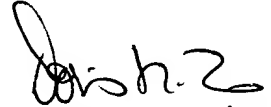
(703) 872-9314, (for formal communications intended for entry; and for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to D. To whose telephone number is (703) 305-4827.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vivian Chin, can be reached on (703) 308-6739.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.


DORIS H. TO 2/10/02
PRIMARY EXAMINER